

State officials seeking federal funds to remove tornado debris from lakes

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State officials are working to secure Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to remove tornado-related debris from Lake Neely Henry in Calhoun and St. Clair counties, as well as from Lake Martin in Elmore and Tallapoosa counties, according to Public Service Commissioner Terry Dunn.

Dunn, of Southside, said the PSC on Thursday provided necessary legal assurances to the governor's office that the commission has no jurisdiction with respect to Alabama Power Co.'s dam operations on the lakes. That assurance was necessary in order to obtain the FEMA assistance, Dunn said.

The dams, along with the public waterways related to them, are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"Gov. Robert Bentley and his staff are working hard to ensure that Alabama obtains federal support in cleaning up the lakes," Dunn said. "The Public Service Commission will continue to do all we can to support the debris removal."